



# The Voter

## THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF MENDOCINO COUNTY

September, 2015

Carol Czadek, President

Jary Stavely and Lee Tepper, Editors

*Annual kickoff meeting*

### **Mendocino College President to Address Members' Meeting**

Mendocino College Superintendent-President J. Arturo Reyes is the featured speaker at the local League's annual kickoff meeting Wednesday, September 9th, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. at Fort Bragg's Harbor Lite Lodge meeting room.

Prior to coming to Mendocino College in 2013, President Reyes had a long career in higher education. From



1998 to 2008 he was a faculty member and later a dean at Cosumnes River College. After working as Dean of Academic Affairs for a year at the California Community College Chancellor's Office, he served from 2009 to 2010 as Vice

President for Academic Affairs and Interim President at San Jose City College. Next he served as Executive Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs at the Solano Community College District from 2010 to 2013. President Reyes is in the process of completing a Doctorate in Education-Educational Leadership from the University of California at Davis.

Mendocino College is proceeding with a plan for assuming control of the Todd Point campus site. On August 12th, its Board of Trustees reviewed the expected timeline for the process of annexing the coastal school districts (Leggett Unified, Fort Bragg Unified, and Mendocino Unified) currently included in the College of the Redwoods system. It also voted to approve a new Memorandum of Understanding with C.R. to continue to offer courses at the coastal site until June of 2017,

when the transfer is expected to be complete.



Local C.R. trustee and League member Barbara Rice will introduce our speaker, and will

be on hand to answer questions about the new plans for our coastal campus. Come to the meeting for more details and a chance to meet Mr. Reyes in person.

This meeting is taking place on a Wednesday, instead of our usual second Tuesday. Members are encouraged, as always, to bring friends and interested community members. League meetings are open to the public at no charge. Coffee and a light breakfast will be served starting at 9:30.

#### **Mission Statement**

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, strives to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

#### **Inside:**

- ◆ Mendocino Celebrates Women's Equality
- ◆ Local Members Attend LWV California Convention
- ◆ Meeting Calendar

### 2014-2015 Officers and Board of Directors

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#### Off-Board Chairpersons

Budget	Jim Plank
Nominating	Betty Barber
VOTER editors	Jary Stavely, Lee Tepper
VOTER Staff	Carol Czadek, Jane Person, Sharon Gilligan, Dorine Real

#### President's message

As we start another year of League meetings, I want to share with you what a gift it is to have one or more causes in which to believe, something that is bigger and more important than ourselves. Last year saw a setback for voting rights in many states as well as unregulated money in politics, which made me wonder if the League's efforts were not working. But, giving up on an important cause is not an option. Causes keep us engaged with the wider community and galvanize our energies. The League of Women Voters has succeeded in always being involved, and promoting and fighting for its policies and positions. People respect that and look to the League for guidance about many issues. In the past, it seemed to me that the League concentrated too much of its efforts into lobbying government bodies and writing court briefs. I am now gratified that the League is participating in more grassroots demonstrations. It is certainly time for more involvement and action. George Bernard Shaw famously remarked that all progress depends on being unreasonable. And, Frederick Douglass observed in the fight against slavery, "Power concedes nothing without a demand." This could be an important year of action. Stay tuned.



#### The League of Women Voters of Mendocino County

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(707) 937-4952

[www.mendo.ca.lwvnet.org](http://www.mendo.ca.lwvnet.org)

**Please visit us on our new facebook page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/LWVMendo1>**

## Mendocino Celebrates Women's Equality

Upwards of 75 people attended a Women's Equality Day celebration on the grounds of the Kelley House in Mendocino on Aug. 22nd. The event was organized to honor the 95th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th amendment to the Constitution, which guaranteed women's right to vote throughout the country.

The festivities began with a sidewalk parade from Kelley House down Main Street to the corner of Kasten and back. Paraders included women, children, and a few



*Patricia Marien with placard*  
men, most in period costumes, and carrying signs with women's suffrage slogans.



*Priscilla Comen portraying Elizabeth Cady Stanton*

Many of those marching were members of the Mendocino Women's Choir, who sang songs of suffrage and freedom.

When the parade participants returned, the celebration continued with a program emceed by Meg Courtney, starting with songs from the youthful Fort Bragg Freedom Singers and the Women's Choir, who performed suffrage songs leader Cynthia Frank had culled from a collection published in 1909.

Next, a series of speakers remembered the struggle for women's rights with personal stories, poems, and personifications. Presenters included Fiona Ma, elected member of the

State Board of Equalization (introduced by Heidi Kraut); Ukiah poet Theresa Whitehill; Priscilla Comen as Elizabeth Cady Stanton; Katharine Elliot as Inez Milholland; Patrick Pekin as a male suffrage supporter; Katarzyna Rolzinski with information on the passage of women's suffrage in California; and Jane Person as Carrie Chapman Catt.

The program concluded with the two choruses leading the audience in a rendition of "Happy Hallelujah". After the program, an anniversary cake prepared and decorated by Dorine Real was served. The event was sponsored by the Mendocino County Women's Political Caucus, the League of Women Voters of Mendocino County, and the Cloud Forest Institute, and was organized by a committee chaired by Val Muchowski.



*Val Muchowski enjoying the program*

*Photos by Becky Bowen. To see more, visit our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/LWVMendo1>*

You can test your knowledge of the campaign for women's suffrage with the following link from lwvus:  
[http://participate.lwv.org/p/salsa/web/questionnaire/public/?questionnaire\\_KEY=835](http://participate.lwv.org/p/salsa/web/questionnaire/public/?questionnaire_KEY=835)

## Local Members Attend California LWV Convention

*By Sharon Gilligan*

In May Jane Person, Roberta Brockschmidt, and I traveled to San Diego to represent the Mendocino League at the California state convention. As a veteran of feminist conferences of the 1970s and '80s I wasn't sure what to expect. (One memorable state by-laws conference ended abruptly when the president declared that since the sheet containing the by-laws wasn't headed 'By-laws', the state didn't have any and therefore they couldn't be amended.)

State President Helen Hutchinson called the convention to order on time and ran a well organized, if tightly scheduled, program filled with thoughtful decision-making and passionate but cordial debate.

The convention hosted several speakers including California Secretary of State Alex Padilla who pledged support for increased voter participation and the re-integration into the voter pool of felons who have served their time.

Numerous workshops were offered to help local Leagues grow and to develop leadership. As a newly nominated local board member I especially liked the League 101 workshop where Elizabeth McNamara, national league president, reminded us that we should not think of ourselves as daughters of Alice Paul but as Carrie Chapman Catt's descendants. She urged us not to use the term non-partisan, but to emphasize that we do not support candidates or political parties. She

said that if something is a good thing for your community, there's a League way to do it.

The convention adopted by-laws changes to clarify how to fill board vacancies, to allow for co-presidents and to change the budget to a two year cycle to avoid the expense of annual council meetings. In addition the Budget Committee and the Advancement Committee were moved from being directed by the by-laws to being guided by Policies and Procedures.

The proposed program for 2015-2017 was adopted retaining all existing positions. Adopted for Education and Advocacy were: Money in Politics, Election Reform and Voting Rights, Protecting California's Environment, and Minimum Wage/Living Wage.

Despite a lively and heartfelt campaign by some bay area leagues, a proposal to add Death with Dignity/End of Life legislation as a topic for study was not adopted.

Helen Hutchinson was re-elected as state president and the proposed slate of officers and board members were elected without opposition .

The 2017 state convention will be in Sacramento. Dates and venue will be announced later. For a full list of officers and board members for 2015-2017 or more information about the convention or on state league activities, visit the members' only website at [www.lwvc.org/membersonly](http://www.lwvc.org/membersonly).

### State League Works for Voting Rights

*By Jane Person*

California has one of the lowest rates of voter registration and voter participation in the country, and it is lowest among citizens of color. The League is helping to remedy that dismal record by seeing that the promise of the National Voter Registration Act is fulfilled. The California League has worked with Covered California to ensure that, as the law requires, every citizen who applies for health benefits is offered the opportunity to register to vote. Last month we joined in a [letter](#) challenging the Secretary of State and the DMV to make "Motor Voter" NVRA registration at the DMV as easy and accessible as it should be.

**League of Women Voters of Mendocino County**  
**2015-2016 Meeting Calendar**

**MEMBER MEETINGS**

The public is invited to attend all member meetings at no charge  
 Tuesdays, except as noted  
 9:30 a.m. refreshments ♦ 10:00 meeting

September 9th, 2015 ♦ Mendocino College, speaker J. Arturo Reyes ♦ Harbor Lite meeting room  
 Note: Wednesday meeting

October 13th ♦ Mendocino Coast District Hospital, moderator Babs Levine ♦ Caspar Community Center

November 10th ♦ Marijuana, moderator Nancy Kleiber ♦ Caspar Community Center

January 12th, 2016 ♦ League of Women Voter’s National Positions,  
 moderators Barbara Matheson and Carol Czadek ♦ Caspar Community Center

February 9th ♦ Effect of State Regulations on Local Water Systems,  
 moderator Pat Dunbar ♦ Caspar Community Center

March 18th ♦ Meet and Greet, stewards Jary Stavely and Patricia Marien ♦ Caspar Community Center

April 12th ♦ The County Prison, speaker Sheriff Tom Allman ♦ Caspar Community Center

May 10th ♦ LWV Mendocino Annual Meeting,  
 President Carol Czadek presiding ♦ Caspar Community Center

**BOARD MEETINGS**

9:30 a.m. meeting ♦ Community Room, Fort Bragg Library, except as noted  
 Tuesdays, except as noted  
 All members are welcome

September 1st, 2015

September 29th, 2015

October 27th, 2015

December 8th, 2015

January 26th, 2016

March 1st, 2016

March 29th, 2016

April 26th, 2016

June 14th ♦ 11 a.m. ♦ Westport Hotel

## Renew Your Membership

Although we recently have had to increase our dues, membership in The League of Women Voters of Mendocino County continues to be a bargain and a statement. You will be saying that you are committed to the ballot as a means for change and to providing non-biased information to voters. The issues your League follows are those that affect every resident's family and community. Get involved in the League of Women Voters. Dues for 2015-2016 cover the period between September 2015 and September 2016.

Please consider joining at one of these levels:

Susan B. Anthony Individual Membership ... \$60  
 Amelia Bloomer Two-member Household Membership ... \$90  
 Elizabeth Cady Stanton Membership ... \$100  
 Carrie Chapman Catt Membership ... \$250 or more \_\_\_\_\_  
 Donation ... \_\_\_\_\_

Name/Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: LWV Mendocino County

And mail to: LWVMC P.O. Box 1128 Fort Bragg, CA 95437

### *National League*

## Letters Urge Senate Actions on Campaign Finance and Environment

*By Jane Person*

The National League joined a letter to U.S. Senators encouraging Senators to support and co-sponsor the Stop Super PAC-Candidate Coordination Act. The bill, sponsored by Senator Leahy (D-VT), would shut down individual-candidate Super PACs that are used to circumvent candidate contribution limits. This is the companion bill to HR 425, introduced in the House by Representative David Price (D-NC).

We also sent a letter to the U.S. Senate with other

reform groups expressing support for the Lobbying and Campaign Finance Reform Act of 2015. This legislation, sponsored by Senator Michael Bennet (D-CO) would limit the ability of lobbyists to use bundled contributions to buy influence with members of Congress.

The League joined a letter urging members of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee to oppose S 1324, a bill by Senator Capito (R-WV) that would gut the Clean Air Act and block the EPA's Clean Power Plan.

### Sources of Information about Money in Politics:

[www.moneyoutvotersin.org](http://www.moneyoutvotersin.org)

<http://cal-access.sos.ca.gov/Campaign/Candidates/>

<http://www.fppc.ca.gov/index.php?id=14>

<http://cal-access.sos.ca.gov/Campaign/Measures/list.aspx?session=2011>

<https://lwvc.org/issues/money-and-politics>

<http://www.fec.gov/finance/disclosure/srssea.shtml>